

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

November 22, 2023

Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to you with grave concern and urgency regarding the United States Postal Service's operations within the Minnesota-North Dakota Region. The information I have received from rural carriers and elected officials in northern Minnesota is distressing and demands immediate attention.

The welfare of our constituents and the integrity of postal service operations are of utmost importance. Reports of alleged prioritization of certain third-party packages over essential mail, such as medications, bills, and paychecks, are of serious concern. Moreover, the reports of employees working without adequate benefits and fair compensation are deeply troubling.¹ Our dedicated postal workers deserve better treatment and fair employment conditions as they tirelessly serve our communities.

Furthermore, recent legislation, notably the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, earmarks a significant allocation of nearly 3 billion dollars for the procurement of the next generation of USPS vehicles. The contract with Oshkosh Defense stipulates the acquisition of 60,000 vehicles, with 45,000 designated as electric vehicles (EVs).² I wonder whether the acquisition of electric vehicles, which are unreliable in cold weather climates like Minnesota, is the most judicious use of resources at this juncture given the financial challenges plaguing the USPS.

¹ Postal workers in Bemidji protest unsustainable working conditions, Amazon prioritization. (Year, Month Day). Bemidji Pioneer. <https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/news/local/postal-workers-in-bemidji-protest-unsustainable-working-conditions-amazon-prioritization>

² Reuters. (2023, May 2). U.S. Postal Service next-generation delivery vehicles delayed to mid-2024. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-postal-service-next-generation-delivery-vehicles-delayed-mid-2024-2023-05-02/#:~:text=In%20February%202021%2C%20the%20USPS,worth%20%246%20billion%20or%20more>

To address these pressing concerns and ensure transparency and fairness within USPS operations, I kindly request comprehensive information and answers on the following:

1. Clarification regarding the alleged prioritization of third-party packages over essential items like bills and medications within the Minnesota-North Dakota region.
2. Details regarding sick leave policies for USPS workers, including any reported instances of employees being compelled to work without proper sick leave.
3. Information about the wage structure and working hours of USPS employees in the Minnesota-North Dakota region, specifically addressing any concerns of full-time work on part-time pay.
4. Outline the specific strategies and initiatives employed by USPS to attract and retain personnel during peak season.
5. What staffing benchmarks are necessary to effectively manage the heightened demands of the peak season in the Minnesota-North Dakota region, and what are the current staffing levels?
6. What measures are being implemented to rectify reported issues surrounding working conditions within USPS facilities?
7. Would redirection of the Inflation Reduction Act funds for electric vehicle acquisition toward bolstering staffing levels and enhancing employee benefits align more effectively with the immediate needs of the USPS workforce and the communities they serve?

The gravity of these allegations necessitates immediate action and transparency. Constituents rely on the USPS for vital services, and their trust must not be compromised.

I respectfully request answers to these concerns by December 4, 2023, and the residents of the Minnesota 8th District and I eagerly await swift action to address these troubling matters.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress
Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District

